

speech recognition means for comparing input speech from a user to words in said selected first group of words, so that comparing of the input speech is performed relative to said selected first group of words prior to comparing the input speech with other of the plurality of different groups of words so that a limited number of groups of the entire vocabulary is searched via said comparing during speech recognition processes.

REMARKS

Responsive to the final rejection dated December 14, 2001, reconsideration is respectfully requested. No claim has been amended, so no new issues are present.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Basore in view of Gupta. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 (and the other pending independent claims) requires selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user, and thereafter *in subsequent speech recognition processes* searching only that selected group of words *for recognizing speech input*. This means that only a limited number of words needs to be searched *during speech recognition*, which is a significant advantage over the prior art. Neither Basore nor Gupta disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 1, either alone or in the alleged Section 103(a) combination.

In Basore, a user speaks a command such as "TV Schedule" (col. 4, lines 49-52). Speech recognition unit 128 recognizes this command, which includes a plurality of words, using word models from database 126, 127 (col. 4, line 54 - col. 5, line 7). Once the words "TV Schedule" spoken by the user are recognized in Basore, processor 124

retrieves an appropriate *response* which in this case is "Which programs this week?" (col. 5, lines 9-22) (this retrieving of a response is not speech recognition). Thereafter, when the user speaks the command "Help", after the word is recognized the processor 124 does not search any pre-selected group of words for speech *recognition*, but instead provides a response. In other words, Basore fails to disclose or suggest selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user, and thereafter in subsequent speech recognition processes searching only that selected group of words for recognizing speech input.

Basore is unrelated to the instant invention in this regard.

The Office Action, in paragraph 8, cites Basore at col. 5, lines 20-31. However, Basore here merely discloses that when a command "Help" is issued, the application software "selects the active vocabulary in the dictionary 127 according to the application and according to the previous command or commands" for a *response* (not for speech recognition as required by the claims). In other words, after recognizing words such as "Help" and "TV Schedule", Basore selects applications for purposes of *responses*, but not for purposes of *speech recognition* as required by the pending claims.

Stated yet another way, according to the instant invention the selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user is part of the process of recognizing speech input; whereas in Basore when words of the command are used to retrieve responses from application data the speech recognition has already been completed for the command.

Citation to Gupta cannot overcome the fundamental flaws associated with Basore explained above. Gupta also does not disclose or suggest the aforesaid aspect of the instant invention.

Gupta significantly differs from the instant invention in that the trellis vocabulary of Gupta contains a network of allophone models, where each branch of the network is one of the allophone models. Each complete path through the network is thus a sequence of models representing a word in the vocabulary. Each time an unknown utterance is to be recognized, a complicated process of determining a matching path is performed. In contrast, the trellis structure of the instant invention is used in a much different way and is not concerned with the detailed speech mechanism itself but instead with how the number of searched words can be restricted by limiting the search to a group of words at a time as recited in the claims. Gupta fails to disclose or suggest this.

It can be seen that even if Basore and Gupta were combined under Section 103 (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event), the claimed inventions still would not be met. First, neither reference discloses or suggests selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user, and thereafter in subsequent speech recognition processes searching only that selected group of words *for recognizing speech input*. Second, Gupta's trellis structure is used for recognizing separate allophones in different steps based on probability, and not for searching among a limited number of word groups as claimed herein. Thus, Gupta cannot remedy the deficiencies of Basore.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn and the application passed to issue. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

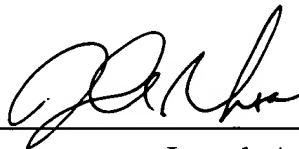
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Respectfully submitted,

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